



Michigan Association for
Purebred Dogs



Michigan Hunting Dog
Federation

Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership

Position Paper House Bill 5331 (H-2)

This bill amends 1994 PA 451 "Natural resources and environmental protection act." It will limit the required participation license to only the licensed hunter who owns or possesses the dogs used in the chase. The Michigan Hunting Dog Federation supports this bill for two main reasons:

- At this time of declining numbers of hunters, every possible effort should be made to bring new people into the sport of taking game. The experiences acquired by participating in, and enjoying, the recreational benefits of hunting will likely attract new hunters. If the participation license were limited to the actual owners of the dogs, as opposed to all that accompany the hunter, as the present act requires, new hunters may be attracted to the sport. We need to be able to invite friends and neighbors to experience the sport. Why should they need a license to ride along and maybe manage the dogs and equipment while experiencing the pleasure of outdoor recreation?

It is very common for whole families to be involved, and under current law, if a ten year old helps his dad get the dog out of the truck he needs a participation license also. This is not the case in any other type of hunting except bear hunting. If that same ten year old were helping his dad get a rabbit or bird dog out, he doesn't need a participation license.

- The participation license for bear hunting was created at the request of the bear hunters. It was meant to prevent the problem of a large numbers of out-of-state hunters buying only one license when bear licenses were sold over the counter. Large groups would frequently buy only one license and use ten packs of hounds and only one license. When the bear hunting license was changed to a lottery system the problems were mostly resolved.

Requiring the license for only the dog owner or possessor will assure that a hunter may invite non-hunting family and friends to also enjoy the pleasures of the hunt.

Enacting this bill will further the intent of Senate Bill 441 which has passed the senate and will "foster and encourage the protection and propagation of game and fish; and protect and promote the exercise of the people's right to lawfully hunt and fish and harvest game and fish that are the property of the state."

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